NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Skirmish with Rebel Cavalry Near Warrenton, Va.

Development of Union Sentiment in Virginia.

Debate on the Slavery Question in the Senate.

Trivial Discussion on the Tax Bill in the House,

Washington, March 25, 1862.

SKIRMISH WITH REBEL CAVALRY. On Saturday a scouting party from the New York Six ty-first regiment, while passing down the railroad from toward Warrenton, and about two miles from French's brigade, were fired upon by a party of cavalry, supposed to belong to Stuart's regiment. on making a demonstration toward the asandoubtedly their intention to pick off a man or two but they were fortunately beyond range, and thus faile to their object. The precipitance with which they departed gave evidence that they are not inclined to any thing higher than a deliberate murder.

It is stated that about four thousand rebels are now is the vicinity of Warrenton, apparently waiting for some thing to turn up. From the reports it does not seen that they intend to make a stand at that point. It is thought that the force is a part of the rear guard of the

FALSE ALARM. On Sunday night a report was made to headquarters that a party of rebel cavalry had appeared at Difficul creek. A reconnoissance failed to find any traces of the

ALLEGED PILLAGE OF THE REBEL STORES LEFT AT

Complaint has been made by General Richardson that parties from Washington and other places, with regula passes to enter within the lines, have availed the of the privilege to pillage from the stores left at Me -flour, pork, &c. They come in wagons, and large quantities of provisions have been thus conveyed away The General thinks the supplies will be useful for ou

own troops, and an interdiction is to be placed upon such

proceedings in future. MEMENTOS OF MANASSAS

ong the ruins for some token. The ground has been well gone over.

DEVELOPEMENT OF LOYAL MENTIMENT IN VIRGINIA The advent of Union troops into Virginia has already had a beneficial effect upon the Union sentiment in Fairfax county. A proposition has been made to organize Heme Guard in the county, for the more perfect securit, of the inhabitants. Many of the farmers are to be see sas, busy at work in erecting their fences, which has been destroyed by the rebel troops. They express the idence in being protected from further invasion, and are determined to go on with the cultivation of the farms, confident that the danger from the war cloud ha passed over them. But very little winter grain has been put in, and the wheat crop has been almost wholly neg-

General Sumner has issued an important order pro-

hibiting acts of marauding. He assures the people Virginia that their only safety is the general governm in their persons and property to the extent of his power The General has also determined to accept no resigns tions in his corps during the campaign. He is decidedly opposed to gentlemen going through with the incidental of the campaign, drawing pay and enjoying the distinct tion of their positions, without incuring any of the dan gers incident to a state of war. No resignations based upon private affairs will be considered by him. A per sistence in an offer of resignation will be followed by ar

THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND THE NEWSPAPERS The action of the Secretary of War in reference t newspapers which publish contraband news in spit order directing the suppression of such intelliof the correspondents. Some have already left the in haste, and others are preparing to fol The order is not intended to be evaded to be executed, and there is no probability exemption from the role on this occasion, as was done

SECRETARY CHASE'S NEW TAX BILL.

The tax bill in process of preparation by the Secretary of the Treasury, as a substitute for that of the Committee of Ways and Means, is not yet completed. It has been well and carefully considered, and will find favor with Congress, which has already been bored with the detail of the bill now before it until members can hardly treat the subject with becoming gravity. THE PROGEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE ON THE TAX BILL

The pettifogging upon the tax bill continues in the This afternoon a farce was exacted over it which afforded much amosement to the actors, but was not relished by those in the audience who reflected upon the gravity of the subject in reference to the prersing needs of the country. The levity displayed by men Whole would have led a stranger to suppose that ship of State was sailing prosperously on a smooth sea Trivial amendments were introduced, just for the fun of the thing. One of them provided that persons exhibiting feats of jugglery and prestidigitation should pay a license of ten dollars. A member suggested that every man who keeps a jug should be deemed a juggler, which wa laughed at as a good joke. It was moved to lecturers, including preachers, and all orators who made speeches for money. A joily member moved to strike out "lecturers," and insert "mothers of families." Mr. Lovejoy had the preachers stricken out, and th whole amendment was lost. A gentleman who has heard of the destruction of seventy-five thousand sheep among his constituency by dogs, moved that every dog dealer be required to pay a license of one dollar, and that every person owning a dog be deemed a dealer. It wa sey, that a tax of five dollars each be levied upon all speeches upon subjects not directly use. This entertaining proposition was not entertained by the Chairman. It was proposed, also, t tax bachelors, school teachers, members of Congress, and congressional candidates. These amendments were successively lost, amid great merriment. Mr. Cox, of Ohio opposed the tax upon circuses, which he regarded a among the necessaries of life. Mr. Lovejoy inquired, jo conely, if he would not tax persons who turned somersets Mr. Cox would not tax theatres, for that would be to tax Hamlet and Faistaff and Othelo, which last would be disagreeable to Mr. Lovejoy. A member remarked, pleasantly, that "a new way to pay old debte" would be Mr. Cex replied, also "Box and Cox, which he wouldn't like." All these brilliant sallies were much enjoyed by the funny men of the House.

The nigger question came up, and some earnest talk as had. The border State men protested against paying a heavy tax upon that species of property and did not want their States driven into disloyally by ures against their institutions. Mr. Low loy sneered at this. He was tired of bearing gentlemen ted that those States had sent their young men fight in the rebel army, and their old men to es to advocate non-interference with ela-Having launched a few sarcasme like that border members Mr. Lovejoy sat down with the air of a person who has thrown vitrol into the eyes of a crowd whom he hated. Two dozen nts were offered upon the proposition to tax negroes, Mr. Lovejoy stirring the cauldron incessantly but the House finally voted them all down and adjourned

This is a specimen of the manner in which the people' representatives are attending to their momentous in terests in this crisis. The men of Lovejoy's stamp do not yet appreciate the heroism manifested by the Union

men of the border States, which is specred at by the n disunionists, who are now the chief siders abetters of the rebellion.

HEAVY DISBURSEMENT OF THE TREASURY. The Treasury Department to-day passed upon and allowed a draft for the benefit of the disbursements of the Quartermaster's Department, amounting to thirtyfive millions of dollars. THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF

COLUMBIA.

The abolitionists in the Senate are crowding all sail Columbia. They are determined to wipe out the institu tion here. The amendment of Senator Saulsbury, pro-viding that the negroes when freed shall be divided mong the free States, is very distasteful to the ultra

The negro question has occupied the attention of the enate all day. Senator Sumner has prepared an elabo rate speech upon the subject.

The strongest and most reasonable objection offered by the citizens of the District to this measure is, that if it should be passed the city of Washington would become lezvous of all the free negroes from the North and all the runaway negroes from the South, and be thus filled with a population notoriously so unprofitable that nearly all the free States on the borders have been compelled to pass laws excluding free negroes from a residence in them. To pass the act abolshing slavery in the District, without passing also acts similar to those adopted in the free States for self protection, would soon make Washington uninhabitable for any

except free negroes.

The Board of Aldermen of the city, at their session last lition of slavery in the District, and instructing the joint committee of the Councils to urge respectfully upon the members of Congress, as the constitutional guardians of the interests and rights of the people of this District, the expediency and the justice of so shaping any legislation affecting the African race here as to provide just and proper safeguards against converting this city-located as it is, between two slaveholding-States, into an asylum for free negroes-a population undesirable in every American community, and which it has been deeme necessary to exclude altogether from some even of the non-slaveholding States.

OFFICIAL REPORT RESPECTING THE CONTRABANDS

The Commission appointed by General Wool to inquire into the condition of vagrants, or contrabands, say in their official report that they started with the genera proposition that the military power has not only the right, but it is among its highest duties, to avail itself of any and all means within its control to perfect its discipline, render its position secure, or make it effective for an advance against an enemy; and for these ends it has the right to compel service or use from anything animate or inamimate which a military necessity may demand. At the same time they conthat necessity is the only proper measure of the extent to which such power can be exercised. The Commission state that a considerable amount of clothing has been sent by charitable persons, which had been distributed among the contra-bands, while, with the funds derived from their labor.

The rage for mementos from Manassas seems unabated and a crowd of people may be seen daily searching the quartermaster has issued clothing up to March 1 to the amount of \$835. For the five months ending with January 1, rations were drawn to the amount of 383 per day, which were issued to about 250 women and children and old and infirm men. The number of contrabands given as 1,508, thus distributed:-At Fortress Monroe port's News 74. Some of the contrabands are employed trading and cystering, and about 100 by officers and sut trading and dystering, and and a servants, officers going lers. Some have accompanied, as servants, officers going South, while others have unceremoniously disappeared tively few contrabands now come to our camps.
The navy is decidedly popular with them, as therein treated as boys and receive ten dollars GENERAL SUMNER'S ORDER TO THE PROPLE OF VIR per month. The commission point out valous abuses and suggest remedies. It further appears from the report that General Wool has issued an order that here after all wages earned by them will be paid to the con

> regulations as may be deemed proper. THE CAPTURE OF BEAUPORT.

The opinion is entertained at the Navy Pepartn that the report of the capture of Beaufort, North Care lina, by General Burnside's forces, is premature. Gen Burnside and Flag Officer Goldsborough are doing their work well and thoroughly, but their movements, and the points at which their blows will be struck, will be known only when the act has been consummate

GENERAL BLENKER STILL IN COMMAND. The statement published in the Tribuse correspondence, a few days ago, that General Blenker was deposed from his command, is certainly without foundation. He still in command of his division in the second corps d'armee of the Army of the Potomac. A warfare has been made upon him by some of the radical Germans in high position, one of whom is said to have left responsible foreign mission with the expectation of taking a high military command. It appears to be essential to the success of his military aspirations that Gen. Ellenker should be pushed aside, and to accomplish this design he is moving heaven and earth, as far as it Tribune and kindred howling organs.

STATE PRISONERS DISCHARGED. n taking the oath of allegiance:-Warren Curtis, John Debeel and R. H. Grinnell. Two others, Alfred Nettle

on and Tench Schley, were released on their writter PROMOTION OF COLONEL TOMPKINS.

The President to-day nominated for Brigadier General Colonel George B. Tompkins, whose dashing gallantry is the early part of the campaign on the Potomac was the theme of all praise. His appointment was strongly

urged by the New York delegation in Congress. THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT AT CAIRO. Representative Steele, of New Jersey, one of the members of the Government Contract Investigating Com mittee, returned to day from Cairo and India whither he was accompanied by a colleague of the com the Quartermaster's and other departments. The discoveries and suggestions of this committee have been the means of saving large amounts of money to th government.

SHARPERS FOLLOWING THE ARMY.

A large number of sharpers are following in the wake f the army, waiting for pay day. Venders of intercating beverages are also in the train, and several grog. shops have been slily opened at Fairfax Court House. The attention of the Commanding General has been rawn to these evils, and they cannot long exist. A party of the Thirty-fourth New York (Oneida county) regiment behaved in a most digraceful manner at Camp California on Wednesday night last. Some two hundred of the regiment entered the camp of the Fifth New Hampshire regiment and made an unprovoked attack upon Mr White, the sutler, and his assistants. The sutler's ten was demolished. The officers present were unable to suppress the proceedings. The offenders were not dealt with as they should have been.

UPISCOPAL CLERGYMEN REJECT A PRAYER OF THANKS

The following is the prayer prescribed by Joseph Whitte, of Maryland, whose diocese includes the city of Washington, which the clergy of two Episcopal churche here are said to have declined to use in the service of the

church:—

FRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR LATE VICTOTIES.

O, Almighty God, the sovereign commander of all the world, in whose hand is power and might which none is able to withstand, we bless and magnify Thy great and glorious name for the happy successes Thou hast of late vouchsafed in so many instances to the arms of this city and District from the terrors of blockade and siege. And we beseech thee, give to us, and to all this people, grace to use this great mercy shown toward us to thy glery, the advancement of Thy gospel, the honor of our country, and as much as in us lieth, the good of all mankind. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to a true thankfoliness, such as may appear in our lives, by an humble, holy and obedient walking before Thee all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with Thee, 6 Father, and Thee, 0 Holy Ghost, as for all Thy mercies, so in particular for these victories, and this deliverance, be all giory and honor, world without end. Amen.

The clerymen who refused to use this form of prayer excuse themselves by saying that it was only requested

xcuse themselves by saying that it was only requeste by the Bishop, but the commune of the Bishop shows that the direction for its use was peremptory. The omission has created quite a commotion in the chur

POSTAL FACILITIES FOR THE ARMY. The Post Office Department continues its preparations for restoring, at the earliest practicable period, the mail service at the points decisively recovered by our troops.

THE CALIFORNIA POSTAL SERVICE. The California delegation waited on the Postm General this afternoon to urge upon him the necessity of a mail routs from San Francisco to Crescent City, two hundred and fifty miles distant from that plant

probable that the route will be established, the only ob tion to it having come from the Post Office Department on the ground of expense.

THE ARMY. The following orders and appointm the Navy Department to-day:-

Lieutenant J. B. Creighton, ordered to report to Flag Officer Dupont at Port Royal.

Granville Louis, appointed Acting Third Againtant Engineer, ordered to United States steamer Rhode Island.

Acting Masters Appointed.—Richard Hustace, United States steamer Monticello, of Baltimore, promoted from Master's Mate; P. D. McDougal, of New York; A. D. Lit tlefield, of Edgartown, Mass.; George G. Murray, of New

PETITIONS FOR A BANERUPT LAW. Petitions in favor of a general uniform bankrupt law continue to be received. Representative Ward to-day ment of the measure.

VISITS TO MOUNT VERNON INTERDICTED. Until further orders no boats or vessels will be allowed to visit Mount Vernon. The Provost Marshal will seize and hold any of them which may attempt to leave for

REVIEW OF GENERAL M'DOWELL'S CORPS. The whole of the corps d'armes under the command of General McDowell was reviewed by General McClellan to-day. The young commander was received with enthu-siastic cheers by the troops. The several divisions were in splendid order, and the display had more the appear

ance of a review of regulars than of volunteers

RALLYING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. A paper has been circulated and signed by nearly al ocratic members of Congress, and by Senato party, and a convention in this city at an early day, to give direction to its future movements.

The house of Com. Jos. Smith, in this city, was en-tered on Sunday morning by some audacious burglar, and robbed of money and valuables. Among the artic stolen was a gold watch which belonged to Lieutenant Smith, son of the Commodore, who lost his life in the bat tle with the Merrimac.

THE KANSAS INDIANS. Now that the way has been opened the Indian refugeer in Kansas are making preparations to return to their homes in the Cherokee country, from which they were recently driven by the rebels. There are six or eight thousand of them, men women and children.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1862.

THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE. Mr. Summer, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee Foreign Relations, reported back the bill in relation to administering the oath of allegiance to American citizens

THE CAPITOL SUPERINTENDENCY

On motion of Mr. Foor, (rep.) of Vt., the resolution to transfer the superintendency of the Capitol extension and dome from the War Department to the Department

of the Interior was taken up.

Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., opposed the transfer.

Mr. Halk, (rep.) of N. H., said that when the exten ion was first commenced it was under the superintend mcy of the Interior Department, and remained so until the advent of the administration of Pierce and Davis. Before that the plan of the was a Christian and civilized one, but it was afterwards changed and the present trap made. Many to pieces, and they are going to pieces, while Italian artists are employed, at extravagant prices, away down in the basement, to decorate a wall two or three stories below daylight

Mr. Foor said there was an urgent necessity that the work should be completed in order to save is. The work never should have been transferred from the civil to the War Pepartment, and never would have been but to satisfy the ambition of Favis and the rapacity of Floyd. He ventu ed to assert that such transfer had cost the go-vernment three or four millions of dollars. The original estimate was two millions, and the bill has already cost six millions.

estimate was two millions, and the bill has already cost six millions.

Mr. Sherman, (rep.) of Ohio, offered an amendment that the money appropriated be only expended in proper repairs. Adopted.

The resolution was then adopted by yeas, 34: mays, 3. Nays.—Messes, Fessenden, Grimes and Lane or Kansas. The Asolution of Slavery was taken up.

Mr. Whrow. (rep.) of Mass, proceeded to speak in favor of the bill. He referred to the controversy in Congress in 1789 as to the permanent seat of government. After a long struggle the Southern men triumphed, and the capital was fixed on the banks of the Potomac. In 1801 Congress enacted that the barbarous, inhuman, indecent and vulgar coloural slave laws of Maryland and Virginia should become the laws of the American republic for the government of the capital, and for two generations the government recognized the vicked dogma that color is an evidence of slavery. In 1827 a law was enected in the District that colored peasens at large, without an owner, should be considered as slaves, and committed to juil. Such legislation brought its own fruit of injustice, dishener and shame. Colored men and women who were taken to juil and many sold into perpetual servitude because, though free, they could not pay the juil fees. Thus human beings were sold into bendage in the capital of the freest country in the world. Justice to the wr. nged and oppressed demanded that this carrupt and corrupting dectrine should be repudiated and condemned by the government of the United this corrupt and corrupting doctrime should be repaidstated and condemned by the government of the United
States. The black min fought side by side with the
white men in the battles of the Revolution, and men of
this age ought to hasten to atome for the great wrongs
perpetrated on the black race, and make manhood a presumptive evidence of freedom. In 1801 Congress continued in force the black code of Maryland, arong the
provisions of which was, that any slave who struck a
white person should have his ears cropped. In 1836 the
Corporation for Washington enacted that every free
colored come in the effect of the control of the colored
colored of the title effect of the colored
colored as a treet lamp he was to be whipped on the bare
back. If he injued trees or houses, he was to be whippod—men and women! Was ever such degrading, inhuman laws on the statute books of any nation?
Savery was the prolific mother of these laws. Drive
slavery from the listrict, and they would disappear. Yet,
not withstand these oppressions, the free negrees had increased in the District from 4,000 to 12000, and have
property, churches and schools. They have twelve
churches, costing \$75,000, and eight schools, besides
helping to support schools for white children. If anybody have the curlosity to look, they will find in the record a morigage, dated 1858, in favor of Alfred Lee, a
colored man, of this city, for \$12,000, by two United
States Senators, to secure a loan for \$12,000.
One of these Senators is how in the Senator had no right
to speak for the people of the District via the speak
and the other sleeps in his grave in Michigan. This bill

aith and trust.
Mr. Sarisauxy, (opp.) of Del., said he had an amend-ment to offer, to relieve the District of what he con-micred the greatest curse that could afflict a people,

which was the free colored population. The amendment is, that the persons liberated by the act shall, within thirty days, be removed, at the expense of the faderal government, to the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minneacta, Kansas, Oregon and California, and be distributed among the States prorata according to population.

Michigan, lowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ranas, Oregon and Californis, and be distributed among the States prerata according to population.

Mr. Powerl, (opp.), of Ky., said be thought if the menof the free States liberated the negroes they ought to
take care of them; but he thought the amendment unconstitutional, so he must vote against it.

Mr. Satisaruw—If the gentlemen would adopt this
amendment they would show a noble philanthropy by
taking home these negroes to themselves. He had read
in the newspapers that certain gentlemen who went to
Port Royal were so glad to see the negroes that they
embraced them and called them mothers and sisters.

Mr. Harlax said he disliked these allusions about embracing negroes. It only served to increase the prejudice against the race already trampled under fool. If
the matter were investigated it would bring the blush to
some of these gentlemen. There was a gentleman
from the Senate of his own State who saked us yesterday why we did not marry the greasy
wenches. He knew to-day of colored children of ama
lately a Senator in the United States from Ohio, being
educated. He knew there was a slander published by
the newspapers about those who went South to take care
of those who were cast off by their masters, and try to
educate them. Those who were willing to take the negroes to embrace, as stated by the Senator from Delaware, were found in the South. These negroes now proof those who were cast off by their masters, and try to educate them. Those who were willing to take the negroes to embrace, as stated by the Senator from Delaware, were found in the South. These negroes now proposed to be liberated were servants, &c., here, and the only difference will be they will hereafter have pay for their service. He found white and colored people here to day laboring side by side.

Mr. KENNEUT, (Opp.) of Md., said there was a great prejudice in Maryland by white men against working with colored people, and had great difficulty in restraining that feeling.

ing that feeling.

Mr. Harran, (rep.) of Iowa, thought the prejudice was not among the laboring men, and could be controlled by such distinguished men as the Senators from Maryland and Delaware.

by such distinguished men as the Senators from Maryland and Delaware.

Mr. Kenned said one of the worst riots in Baltimore for many years was from the employment of free negroes in the ship yard.

Mr. Harlan said it appeared to be the doctrine of the Senator from Maryland that the people would rise and massacre the whole colored population. He could not believe the people of Maryland were so low. If that were the case, they were worse than the Chippewas and Sloux, if they would murder those brought up with them, though not taught in the same churches.

Mr. Kenned said they had slaves in Maryland whe were taught and had churches. He had himself manumitted a slave who taught slaves.

Mr. Harlan asked if the Senator had any disposition to murder him?

murder him?
Mr. KRNNEDY said No; not more than white men of
he Senator's section seemed willing to murder the peo-Mr. KENNEY said No; not more than write new the Senator's section seemed willing to murder the people of Maryland.

Mr. Harlar thought that the people of Maryland and Delaware had no such disposition to murder as had been imputed to them. No such war of extermination ever took place in any nation of the world. All the great empires of antiquity were composed of people of different races, and no such war ever took place oxcept among savages. He did not think these happy and contented negroes, now working for nothing, were going to turn roun upon their masters simply because they were paid wages.

roun upon their masters simply because they were paid wages.

Mr. Savishuky said the Senator, it seemed, made a speech at vonture. Delaware had a larger free negro population, in proportion, than any State, and he know there was no greater curse than the free negro population. He would have but one spirit in the country, and that the preservation of the Union, with all the rights of the people. That man who makes emancipation paramount to the constitution and Union is a disloyal man. But we have seen peaceful men dragged from their homes and thrown into loathsome Bastiles, while a man who declares he has been a disunionist for twenty years is permitted to lecture here, and come on the floor of the Senate, and go at large through the country.

Adjourned.

House of Representatives.

TILEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE CREWS OF THE CUMBER The House passed the Senate bill providing for the settlement of the accounts of the officers and crews of the frigates Congress and Cumberland, the books having been ost or destroyed in the recent naval engagement at

Hampton Roads.

THE PACIFIC RAILBOAD BULL On motion of Mr. Campent, (rop.) of Pa., in view of the pendency of the Tax bill, the consideration of the Facilic Railroad bill was postponed and made the special order for Tuesday next.

THE TAX BILL. The House then, in Committee of the Whole, resumed the consideration of the Tax bill.

WADSWORTH, (Union) of Ky., offered an ar to the clause defining "what is a circust" so as to include prestidigitation, ring master and clown performances. Mr. Cox, (opp.) of Ohio, said that the House last year commenced taxation at the wrong end by operating on posed to tax the luxuries and recreations of life. The gentleman from Pennsylvania must be lost to the innogentleman from Pennsylvania must be lost to the inno-cent days of childhood to tax a circus or a theatre. It amounted to a tax on Hamlet and Falstaff. It was taxing "A New Way to Pay Old liebts." It was "Raising the Wind," as fast been suggested, by "Box and Cox." (Laughter.) In this he spoke with feeling. (Renewed laughter.) Why not tax the performances last night at Cherimati, and put a tax on eggs, which, it is reported, were freely used there? How could they tax a gentle-man who turns three someracts in the air and catches were freely used there? How could they tax a gentle man who turns three somersets in the air and catches

three rings as he goes along?

Mr. Lovkjov, (rep.) of 1ll., wanted to know whether
the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Cox) would tax those who

jugglers, practising sieght of hand, pay twenty dollars license. Adopted, after Mr. Segweick, amid laughter, had proposed to define jugglers, by stating every one who owns a jug.

Mr. Blake, (rep.) of Ohio, submitted an amendment imposing a tax of one dellar on each dog-holder. (Laughter.) He said, although his proposition excited merrament, it was important to Ohio, where 75,000 sheep are annually killed by dogs, which are a nuisance.

Mr. STRYERS, (rep.) of Pa., suggested a tax on each dog, rather than or each drg.holder.

Mr. Blake replied that they could get the tax from the dog-holder, but not from the dog.

Mr. STRYERS, thought a man who holds ten dogs ought to pay a dollar on each.

Mr. Hlake withdrew his amendment.

Among the other amendments adopted were the fellowing:—

Cattle brokers to pay a license of ten dollars. Itinerant

Among the other amendments adopted were the following:

Cattle brokers to pay a license of ten dollars. Itinerant venders of newspapers, bibles and religious tracts are excepted from the definition of peddlers.

Mr. PENDLERON, (opp.) of Ghio, offered an amendment, which was adopted, re-niring lawyers and physicians to pay a license of ten dollars.

A GPNIZERAN proposed to amend by requiring every one who voted for a member of Congress, whether elected or not, to pay a similar amount, while another member proposed a five dollar license to be taken out before making a set speech. Both amendments were received with shouts of laughter.

Mr. Strucks said that if such proceedings were continued the House would become a laughing stock.

Mr. Blain, (rep.) of Mo., proposed a new clause, to propose a tax of five dollars on each shave for life, and three dollars on these held for a term of years.

Mr. Carsulle, (Union) of Md., protested against the amendment in the name of the canstitution and in the name of the people of loyal Maryland. Nothing would exapperate them more than this messure, and it might good them into desperation.

Mr. Killickso, (rep.) of Ill., proposed to add that all sums to be thus rai-od shall be applied to the colonies of emancipated slaves.

This amendment was ruled out of order.

Mr. Lovelov, (rep.) of Ill., replied to Mr. Crisfield, saying he liked not the boast of loyalty to be coupled with a menace. It was as much the duty of Maryland to be loyal as it was that of Illinois. He scouted that kind of loyalty which would perpetuate the system of concubinage and turn every slave but into a brothel. Slavery was a stench in the nostrils, and slaveholders love this system of oppression more than they love the Union; and, whenever it conses to the pinch, Kentacky will side with secesh. They will go with those who will forever protect their darling institution.

Mr. Mallory, (Union) of Ky, did not rise to reply to the Iarrago and fanaticism of the gentlemen, uttered during the five minutes the gentlemen

equally detestable—namely, those engaged in the rebellion and the class of which Mr. Lovejoy was a prominent member.

Mr. Blark, (rep.) of Mo., defending his position, did not see why certain gentlemen should get into a paroxysm of excitement whenever this subject was named, as the North would have to pay the busk of the taxes, he did not see why the slaves, who are used as preperty, should not be taxed. There should be equality.

Mr. Lovelov, replying to Mr. Chrisheld and Mr. Mallory, said, if it had not been for those called fanatics, they could not in peace return to their own States. There could be no peace till the public mind rests in security that slavery is in progress of ultimate extinction.

Mr. Hlair's proposition was amended so as to tax one dollar on slaves for life, between eight and fifty years of age, and striking out that part relating to service for a term of years. Numerous efforts were made to amend this, but finally the whole proposition was defeated, 41 against 62.

An amendment was adopted, providing that nothing in the bill shall be construed to prevent any State from imposing taxes upon any articles therein taxed or licenses required.

The Committee rose and the House adjourned.

Obituary.

Departed this life, on the 34 inst., of typhoid fever and bronchial catarrh, in Jeffersen county, Ky., Dr. A. B. Coon, of Allegheny county, New York, aged thirty four years and six days. The deceased was, up to the time of his affliction, Assistant Sargeon in Colonel Walter C. Whitaker's regiment of Kentucky volunteers.

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA.

Terrific Storm in Nevada Territory-Another Flood Anticipated-Severe Cold Weather-Fatal Mining Accident. We have files of San Francisco papers to the 1st of

larch inclusive, but they contain very little news of general interest. A terrific hurricane prevailed at Carson City on the

25th of February, during which it snowed and rained alternately. Buildings were unroofed and crushed, and some so badly damaged that it was considered unsafe to

American and Sacramento rivers were rising slowly, and reports from the mountains indicate another flood. Tuesday night, February 11, says the Mariposa Ga

Tuesday night, February 11, says the Mariposa Ga sets, was the coldest ever experienced here by white men. The thermometer showed the temperature to be twelve degrees below freezing point. Ice was formed in many places about town to the thickness of an inch.

Van Buren Wilson was accidentally killed in the Manzanits slope, near Port Wine, on Sunday evening, February 9. A loaded car, says the Mountain Messenger, was started down the incline, when one of the timbers became disengaged, and made a premature arrival at the foot of the slope, striking Wilson in the back and causing instant death. Deceased was a native of St. Lawrence county, New York.

The Legislature was sitting in San Francisco instead of Sacramento, and would probably make San Francisco the permanent capital of the State. The San Francisco hotels were all full.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 17, 1862. Ship Ringleader sailed to-day for Japan, with United

tates Minister Pruyn and suite. The steamer Panama has arrived from Mazatlan 8th The latest news received there from Arizona repres that the country is almost depopulated on account of the secession sentiment and the hostilities of the Indians. The rebei (Davis') troops, numbering nine hundred, were awaiting reinforcements at Tubac, with the avowed purpose of taking fort Yuma, in California: but most of the five regiments of California Volunteers were in that portion of the State, and would be glad to meet an invading enemy.

Arrived at Sup Francisco 17th, shin George Washing-

invading enemy.

Arrived at San Francisco 17th, ship George Washing ton, Honolulu; barks Mary. New York; Egypt, Bordeaux Fruiterer, Malaga; Wilhelm Kircher, Rie Janeiro. Saileship Elizabeth Cushing, Valparaiso.

News from the West Indies. Movements of the British Fleet.

HAMILTON, Bermuda, March 12, 1862. Her Majesty's ship Landrail, Commodore Martin, is about to leave for New York, and her Majesty's ship

Her Majesty's ship Medea arrived here on the 10th from New York.

Her Majesty's ship Spiteful, which left here for New York on the 24th ult., returned here on the 7th instant, being unable to accomplish her voyage, having met with terrific weather and sustained much damage. Her Majesty's ship Diadem left yesternly for Eng.

Her Majesty's ship Orpheus left here on the 6th inst. for the Cape of Good Hope. for the Cape of Good Hope.

Transport steamer Ajax, from England, with coal for government, arrived at Ireland Island yesterday.

General Sigel's Address to His Soldiers
After the Battle of Pea Ridge.

CAMP PER RIGGS, ARK., HEARST AFTER:
FIRST AND SECOND DIVISIONS, March 16, 1862.
TO THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND

TO THE OFFICEM AND SOLDIEMS OF THE PLEAT AND SECOND DIVISIONS:—
After so many hardships and sufferings of this war in the West, a great and decisive victory has, for the first time, been attained, and the army of the enemy overwhelmed and perfectly routed. The rebollious flag of the Coafederate-States lies in the dust, and the same men who had organized armed rebellion at Camp Jackson, Maysville and Fayetteville; who have fought against us at Boonsville, Carthage and Wilson's creek, at Lexington and Milford, have paid the ponalty of their seditious work with their lives, or are seeking refuge behind the Boston Mountains and the shore of the Arkansas river.

The last days were hard, but triumphant. Surrounded and pready enemy—by the Missouri and Arkansas Mountaineer, the Tream Rangers, the final regiment of Louisians, twops, and ecen the sange instans—almest without food, sleep or camp fires, you remissed firm and unabsuhed, awaiting the moment when you could drive back your assailaints or break through the iron circle by which the rebellious flag on the rocky summit of Pea kidge.

You have defeated all their schemes. When at McKiesick's farm, west of Bentonville, you extricated your elves fear their grass by a night's march, and secured a

You have defeated all their schemes. When at Me-kiesick's farm, west of Bentonville, you extricated your-selves frem their grasp by a night's march, and secured a train of two hundred wagons before the elemy became aware of the direction you had taken, instead of being cut off, weakened and driven to the necessity of giving cut off, weakened and driven to the necessity of battle under the most unfavorable circumstance at Sugar co

battis under the most unfavorable circumstances, you joined your friends and courades at Sugar creek, and thereby saved yourselves and the whole army from being separated and beaten in detail.

On the retreat from Bontonville to Sugar creek—a distance of ten miles—you cut your way through an enemy at least fine times through an enemy at least fine times through the yourseless. The activity, self-pos-ession and courage of the little band of six hundred will ever be memorable in the lists ry of this war. When, on the next day, the great battle began, under the command of Gon. Abboth, you lassisted the fourth divisi in with all the cheerfulness and abority of good and faithful soliers—that division on that day holding the most important position—while Col. Osterhaus, cooperating with the third division, battered down the hosts of McCulloch on our left, and Major Paten guarded our rear.

On the 8th, you came at the right time to the right the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Cox) would leak toology the control of the components.

Mr. Cox, (opp.) of Ohio, replied that he was altogether opposed to taxing such persons as the gentleman from illimois (Mr. Lovejoy), because that would be a tax on "Otheilo," and would place the gentleman in a bad way, and "His occupation would be gone."

Mr. Wadsworth's amendment was rejected.

Mr. Hickman, (rep.) of Pa., officed an amendment that jugglers, practising sieight of hand, pay twenty dollars jugglers, practising sieight of hand, pay twenty dollars jugglers, practising sieight of hand, pay twenty dollars include a Adopted, after Mr. Seigwick, simil laughter, had proposed to define jugglers, by stating every one who owns a jug. On the Sth, you came at the right time to the right place, it was the first opportunity you had of showing your full strength and power. In less than three hours you firmed in time of battle, advanced and co ope at d with our friends in the right, and rout of the enemy so completely that he field like dust before a harrican. And you think always to when traitors, seduced by selfish leaders and of an evil conscience, are fight-o defend a good cause, are well ing against soldiers who defend a good cause, are well dealed and desciplined, obey promptly the orders of their officers, and do not shrink from dangerous assault when at the proper and decisive moment it is necessary. You may look with pride on the few days just assed, during which you have so gloriously defended the flag of the Union. From two o clock on the morning of the 6th, when you left McKissick's far m, until four o clock on the oventful atterneon of the 9th, when you arrived from Keetsville in the common encampment, you marched fifty miles, fought three battles, took not only a tattery and a flag from the enemy, but more than a hundred and fifty prisoners—among them acting Brigatier General Herbert, the commander of the Louisiana forces, and his Major, Colonel Stone, Adjutant General of Price stores, and Li utenant Colonel John H. Price, whose life was twice spared, and who has now for the second time violated his parole, and was arrested with arms in his hands.

You have done your duty, and you can justly claim your share in the common glory of this victory. But let us not be partial, unjust or haughty. Let us not forget that alone we were too weak to perform the great work before us. Let us acknowledge the great services done by all the brave soldiers of the Third and Fourth divisions, and always keep in mind that "united we stand, divided we fall." Let us hold out and push the work through—not by mere words and great claimer, but by good marches, by hardships and fatigues, by strict discipline and effective battles.

Columbus has failelm—Memphis will follow, and if you

good marches, by hardships and fatigues, by strict disci-pline and effective battles.

Columbus has failen—Memphis will follow, and if you do in future as you have done in these past days of trial, the time will soon come when you will pitch your tents on the beautiful shores of the Arkansas river, and there meet our iron-clad propellers at Little Rock and Fort Smith. Therefore, keep alert my friends, and lock for-ward with confidence.

F. SIGEL,
Brig. Gen. Commanding First.and Second divisions.

Personal Intelligence. Major General Frement leaves this city to-day, to a command of the department to which he was recently assigned by the partiality of the President.

recently assigned by the partiality of the President.

James O. Sargent and Mr. Rice and wife, of Boston;
Mr. Codman and wife and Miss Bradlee, of Hyde Park; H.
S. Collins and wife, and Miss Perry, of Hartford, are
stopping at the Breveort House.

H. J. Noad, of Quebec; James O. Sheldon, of Geneva;
B. W. Pycock, of New York; Miss Blydenburgh, of Long
Island, and James Glimour, of Cincinnati, are stopping at
the Clarendon Hotel.

D. Wall, of Baltimore; N. Kingsbury, of Hartford; S.
B. Dana, S. Shaw, W. C. Poor, and C. F. Adams, of Boston; S. B. English, of Vermont; A. C. Horton and wife, of
Cincinnati, and N. Peck, of New Haven, are stopping at
the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Cincinnati, and N. Peck, of New Haven, are stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Captain A. R. Eddy and J. N. Andrews, of the United States Army: S. S. Webb, of the United States Navy: W. S. Smith, of Ilinois: W. R. Taylor, of China; Charles M. Griffin, of Vancouver's Island; E. D. Heatley, of California; Peter S. Miller, of Chile; James D. Churchill, of Victoria; Joseph Heco, of Japan, and E. F. Fuller, of Cincinnati, are stopping at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Hon. S. P. Benson and G. A. Benson, of Maine: Hon. Augustus Frank, of Wyoning county; Major W. B. Slack, of Washington; Capt. Tracey, of the United States Army; John Spires, of St. Louis; Horace Ramséell, of Newburg; L. P. Wright, A. H. Safford and G. B. Uphon, of Boston; P. Thompson and A. L. Hobson, of Portland, are stopping at the Astor House.

R. Whoeler, of Bridgeport; D. Garwin and John Gardner, of Ohio; L. L. Northrop, of Kansas; S. Downer, of Boston; W. M. Bennett, of Michigan; W. Williams, of Philadesphia, and F. D. Perry and wife, of Connecticut, are stopping at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Major F. M. Gemente, of Washington; G. Pritchard and wife and J. B. Frary, of Connecticut; W. P. Downes, of Syranse; Dr. J. M. Bryder, of Philadelphia; A. C. Scranton, of Troy; J. J. Greenough, of New York, and Captain C. E. Mowry and G. R. Drown, of Previdence, are stopping at the Latarge House.

Americans registered at Gun & Co.'s American and General Agency and Reading Hown, 10 Steand Lendon.

stopping at the Laisrge House.

Americans registered at Gun & Co.'s American and General Agency and Reading Hoom, 10 Strand, Lendon, W. C., England, for the week ending March 8, 1862—Francis Goodridge, C. J S. Colchester, Charles Conloin, John Mootton, W. B. Smyth, J. Hart and T. L. Nichol, New York; Rev. W. H. Heu de Bourck, Dyersville, Jown, Charles Storrow, Boston, Mass.; David Rooch, Natchoz; Mrs.

FIRE IN FIFTH AVENUE .- Between eight and nine o'clock ast night a fire occurred in a two and a half story frame house, located on Fifth avenue and Sixty-third street. It was totally destroyed. It was occupied by widow Corde-lia Seide. Her less will be about \$50. Insured for \$250 in the Hamilton Insurance Company. The building was owned by Mr. Lehman, and was worth about \$409; not INTERESTING FROM FREDERICKSBURG.

Negroes Engaged on the Extensive Rebel Fortifications Now Being Built in the Neighborhood of the Town.

Statement of the Escaped Contrabands.

Sketch of Fredericksburg and the Surrounding Locality.

MAP OF THE POSITION. &c.,

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1862. On Saturday fourteen contrabands came into the camp f Hooker's division from the Virginia side. They are rom Fauquier and Stafford counties, and state that they run away to escape being sent to Fredericksburg.

were sent there the Confederate government would pay killed; and the negroes were told that if the Yankees got them by any means they would be forced to work hard all day and be locked up at night, and when they had nothing for them to do they would be sent to Cuba and old to pay the expenses of the war. They are a fine, healthy lot of darkies, varying in age from eighteen to forty years. Nine of them are the property of widow Sallie Cowes, of Stafford, and her four sons, two of whom are in the rebel army.

The camp of the First Massachusette regiment has been selected to be used as a general hospital for all the sick of this division who may not be able to accompany their regiments when they march. This camp has been selected on account of its healthy location, convenience to water communication, and the permanent and comfortable manner in which the huts have been Sketch of Fredericksburg and Vicinity.

Fredericksburg is the chief town of Spottsylvania co ty, in Virginia, and is situated on the right bank of the ock river, at the head of tide water. It is between fifty and sixty miles from Richmond by railroad, and sixty-five miles by the turnpike, in a northerly direction. Turnpike roads connect it with Falmouth an Newport—the former by a ferry across the Rappahannock—and another turnpike leads through a wilderness to Orange Court House, where a railroad connects it with fordonsville. The town itself is pleasantly situated in a fertile valley, and has advantages for commerce and manufactures, as will be seen by reference to our map on the first page. The railroad from Washington, via Aquia creek, passed through it, and thereby a large traffic and trade was done previous to the rebellion. As the through trains generally stopped at Fredericksburg station about an hour on each trip, a not inconsiderable chance trade was caused thereby in the immediate locality of about fifteen miles, from which point part of the Potomac river traffic used to be carried to Fredericksburg. A good canal had also been constructed from the town to a point on the Rappahanneck river about forty miles above, by which large quantities of wheat, flour and tohacco were received for exportation. The river afforded extensive water power, which, how_ ever, was not much used. The hills in the neighborhood varying in height from forty to one hundred feet, abound the prespect of Fredericksburg being a rapidly rising town was very great; but it suddenly stop; ed in its prosperity, and after, as it were, standing still for about twenty years, it gradually retrograded in its importance. In 1840 its population numbered nearly four thousand goals, and in 1850, ten years after, it had only increased. eighty-eight persons—less than nine each year, and being about two per cent in a decade—a remarkably small in crease. Before the rebellion it contained five churches, one orphan asylum, two seminaries, four newspape offices and two banks.

The county in which Fredericksburg is situated has an area of four hundred square miles. The Rappahannock forms the boundary on the northeast, the North Anna river on the southwest, and the Mattapony rises within its limits. The surface is diversified by hill and dale. The soil is generally fertile in the vicinity of the streams. Two gold nines were worked within the county in 1860; and, as before stated, freestone and granite are abundant. The canal running northwest carries the river traffic far above the falls, and the country is intersected by the Richmond and Potomac Ratiroad. Spottsylvania was organized in 1720, and named in honor of Alexander Spottswood, at that time Governor of Virginia. The capital of the county is Spottsylvania Court House, a post viliage on the Po river, and situated over sixty miles nearly due north from Richmond, with which it is connected by a turnpike road. The last return of the population whom were slaves. The adjoining counties of Stafford and King George run along on the opposite side of the Rappahannock, and together have an area of four hunfree and twenty-six miles. The surface of the soil is hilly partially fertile and partially arid. Their united population at last returns amounted to 13,975, over one-half of whom were slaves. Granite, freestone and gold ties. The former is a very old county, having been formed in 1675, and named after the English county of the same denomination. The water power and drainage of Stafford are very good, and if properly used would have been sources of wealth to the inhabitants of the neighborhood. The before mentioned railroad also interse Stafford county. Funquier county adjoins Stafford

county on its western border. The Van Wyck Investigating Committee. The labors of the Van Wyck Committee in this city are temporarily suspended. Colonel Van Wyck has been summened to take command of his regiment, which is summened to take command of the regiment, which is now under marching orders. The Colone: left the St. Nicholas Hotel last night for the seat of war. He has ex-amined many witnesses while here, and his report, it is said, will give some startling disclosures as to the management of the various departments in the Custom

A Suit for Heavy Damages Against the

City.
SUPERIOR COURT—SPECIAL TERM.
Before Hon. Judge Barbour.

MARCH 25 .- H. Smiler vs. . The Mayor, Commonalty and City of New York.—This action is brought against the city to recover the sum of \$157,000 for work done in March, 1857, under a contract for cleaning the streets of the city. The care came before the Court on demurrer, the city. The case came before the Court on demurrer, the question being whether the contract was invalid, not having been continued by any ordinance of the Common Council. Mr. Edwin James argued the case for the plaintiff, and contended that, as payments had been made on account of the work it must be presumed, as against the Corporation, that an appropriation had been made and that such payments were evidences of confirmation. He submitted an elaborate argument to the Court. Messra. Edwin James and Ganun for the plaintiff, Messra. Anderson and Bronson for the defendants.

The Jodga gracerych his decirity in the country of the

United States Commissioners' Court.

Before John A. Osborn, Esq. Before John A. Osborn, Esq.

MARCH 25.—Conrad Fox, a wholesale druggist, was harged with shipping oil of vitriol by the Evergreen City to Lake Erie, without marking the nature of the goods, as required by the statute, in ail cases of com-

busible matter.

Mr. Gorham, United States Commissioner, of Buffalo, issued the warrant for the apprehension of Mr. Fox, which was endorsed by Commissioner Usborn, and the accused party was brought up. It appears that there is a penalty for the transhipment of oil of vitriol without being properly labelled; but credible witnesses for the defence proved that the goods consisted of sulphuric acid, which was not of a combustible nature. They also testified that none of the goods in the invoice in question would produce combustion.

The Commissioner discharged the accused. United States District Court.

INDICTMENTS FOUND. MARCH 25 .- The Grand Jury came into Court with bills: indictment in the following cases:-The United States vs. Joseph Webb, for passing counterfeit cein. The United States vs. Pedro Arterga, for assault with a dan-gerous weapon. The United States vs. Thomas Duffey, for the murder of Joseph Smail, on board the ship Southamp-

THE PRIZE CASES.

Before Hon. Judge Bette.

March 25.—The United States v. the Price Schooners
Fenus and Garrone, and the Strambout Hong Lowis and.
Cargo.—On motion of Mr. Stewart B. Woodford, the testimony taken in preparation by the Price Commissioners
be opened, the Court made an order to that effect